

"That no other cause has been or could be suggested for crime in Ireland from and after 1879, except the agitation of the Land League and the speeches of the leaders." These excerpts from the speech of counsel present the meaning of the charges from the Parnellite point of view. The complicity suggested was assumed in the first instance from the forged letters, and it was sought to establish the charge by this evidence. But the collapse of PIOTT shut up the *Times* case on this side. It was thought by many that the charge was disposed of with the discovery of the truth about the forged letters; but these, it is claimed, were merely incidents in the body of proof it was in the power of the *Times* to call. The witnesses were called, and the case continued to drag its weary length along, public interest having lost all hold in the meantime on the rest of the case against the Parnellites, and being only concerned in the ultimate issue as to whether intimidation had been used or not, and if so, how far it was responsible for the outrages that undoubtedly had been committed from time to time. The Commission has found that the Parnellites did have recourse to intimidation, while at the same time acquitting their leader of intimacy with those chiefly responsible for the outrages. This part of the finding is a little vague, and it is impossible to say exactly how far it goes in the present incomplete state of the information to hand. The uncertainty is the more perplexing as it relates to the only point that really remained at issue.

As to the general tone of the Report, however, there is no room for any mistake. This Parliamentary Commission sat to try a Parliamentary party. Had the finding been adverse, the result would have inflicted an indelible brand of disgrace not only on the party and the people it represented, but on the civilisation that could render such a shrewd tactic possible. The Phoenix Park murders had sent a thrill of horror through the world, yet it was with this tragedy that some of the forged letters distinctly sought to connect Mr. PARNELL and the party he led. In the letter of May 16, 1882, there was a passage in which the Irish leader was made to say that he "could not refrain from admitting that BUNAU got no more than his deserts"; and in another place, while expressing a certain opinion privately, he was made to excuse himself from saying the same thing openly on the ground that "to denounce the murders promptly was plainly the best policy." Had the assumed authenticity of these letters remained unrefuted there was only room for one conclusion in all honest men's minds. Being forgers, a natural revulsion of feeling set in in favour of the man and the party thus fraudulently aspersed. Apart from the *Times* itself, which hazarded such a large stake on the honesty of the informants who sought to betray their employers and their countrymen alike, there is probably no public man of the least repute in England to-day who will not unforgivingly rejoice to see the public life of the country relieved of the suspicion of such a damning political scandal.

The Commission has made clear certain thigs of which history will not fail to take cognisance. Stripped of the mass of detail, the questionable evidence of paid informers who appear to have been equally ready to tell both parties, and the preconceived opinions that people have been led to form by fragmentary reports from time to time, it is clear that an enormous amount of agrarian misery has existed in Ireland. It is clear that outrages have occurred, and a portion of the Report seems to trace some of these to the indirect influence of the Parliamentary agitation. That party leaders have a certain responsibility for the remote consequences of their agitation must to some extent be admitted, but if this theory were insisted upon to strongly the effect would be to discredit all political agitation whatever. Few of the early political reforms in England were entirely unaccompanied by excesses, traceable indirectly to the action of those who initiated the reforms, but for which it is difficult to find any parallel.

Mr. D. O'CORRAN, Postmaster-General, received a telegram from the progress committee at Charlton, stating that the excesses committed by the party with which the Minister had caused to be established telegraph communication to that centre.

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Mr. D. O'CORRAN, Postmaster-General, returned to Sydney from the South Coast districts yesterday, and at once proceeded to his office, where, to the surprise of the morning, he received telegrams, whose dates were for increased postal and telegraphic facilities at Broadmead, North Shore, and Dungog.

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INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY.

During his recent visit to the Alpine district of Victoria, as president of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, Baron von Mueller became impressed with the resemblance of the Alpine climate and soil to Switzerland, and certain are opinion that under judicious encouragement the region might be settled, and become, in fact, another Switzerland, growing fruits and other products as freely as that country does.

The census of the Australian colonies will be taken next year, and the Tasmanian Government is desirous that a preliminary conference of statisticians be held to arrive at some matters of importance. Mr. Gillies has agreed, and Victoria will be represented.

The mail coach from Rosedale to Yarran upset last night in a flooded creek near Yarran. Frank Osborne, the driver, and a passenger named Hume narrowly escaped drowning. Two mail bags were swept away.

A serious mishap occurred at Numurkah Ballarat Station this evening. A number of trucks filled with grain were being hauled prior to being attached to the 6 o'clock special goods train for Melbourne. While crossing the points the foremost truck left the rails, one being turned completely over. The contents of the truck were scattered on the track, causing a loss of nearly £200 or £300. Several trucks were damaged.

The representatives of the Federation Conference who have not left Melbourne will be taken to the Halls to inspect the damage. The party will comprise Sir John Hall, Captain Russell, Sir James Steer, Mr. Gillies, Mr. Deskin, and the Minister of Defence.

The Governor and the Counties of Hopetoun left for Melbourne this afternoon.

The brown coal of Gippsland has proved a partial failure as fuel for engines. This is attributed to the nature of the furnaces and the firebox being so constructed as to allow the coal to fall through before the heating power is exhausted. The Secretary for Mines has arranged for a series of experiments to determine the best form of firebox.

A general average contribution of 12 per cent has been made on the Leech Garry, which put into Mauritius disabled, and had to sail there. She left home in May last.

QUEENSLAND.

BRISEANE, FRIDAY.

A warrant was issued from the Admiralty Court this morning at the instance of the A. U. S. N. Company for the seizure of Messrs. Howard Smith and Sons' steamship Konowarra, which arrived here last night from Sydney. The warrant was issued with strict search warrant, and was not led to the master of the Konowarra. These proceedings have arisen through the late collision in the Maribyrnong River, which occurred between the Konowarra and Ranelagh. The A. U. S. N. Company claim £2000000 damages at Upon Meers, Howard Smith and Sons guaranteeing to pay all damages and costs (if any) which may be awarded by the Court in this action, the sum to be released. Messrs. Howard Smith and Sons consider that they had just as much right to arrest the Ranelagh under the circumstances as the A. U. S. N. Company had to take proceedings against the Konowarra.

At the District Court to-day Charles H. Boulden, clerk in the Bank of Queensland, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for embezzlement. William Berk, late secretary to the Metropolitan Fire and Building Company, who was convicted on charges of forged signature, was sentenced to 18 months' hard labour.

Howard has again fallen over a considerable portion of the country, and the weather conditions are extremely variable and threatening. Mr. Wrage has issued a special forecast to-night as follows:—"I expect a heavy fall between the Smoky Cape and Cape Northumberland, embarking Bass Straits, and especially the coast portions of the southern colonies and Tasmania, with considerable rain and a strong south-west wind, veering to south-east gales and rising east. I advise southern shipping to be on the alert for the next two days. Baffling winds are inclined to blow between the east and north-east coasts, and the Clarence Heads, with strong local squalls.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, FRIDAY.

The Cabinet has considered the report of the Railway Commissioners on the railway accident causing the death of Mr. Ramsey. Surprise was expressed at the low flashing test of the oil used for lighting the carriages. It was decided to take steps, and why such a standard as 110 had been adopted.

On Thursday a number of horses were seized at Serviceton while being illegally introduced to the colony by from Victoria, and were committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Stock. Notices were made to the Commissioners of Lands who, being satisfied that the horses had acted in ignorance of the law, ordered the release of the animals on a nominal fine being paid.

A dispute causing much feeling occurred lately in reference to the holding of Sunday concerts at the Semaphores. The Mayor having refused to allow the concerts, the Collector of Customs (Mr. F. J. Sanderson) was referred to the Commissioner of Stock. Notice was made to the Commissioner of Lands who, being satisfied that the horses had acted in ignorance of the law, ordered the release of the animals on a nominal fine being paid.

The Marine Board held an inquiry to-day into the collision between the schooner Mary Webster and Zephyr, bound for Townsville, which occurred about eight miles off Corio Point on the morning of February 1. The board found that no boat-boat was kept on the Zephyr, and the Mary Webster being on the starboard rock, was justified in keeping her course. The Zephyr was blameable for the collision.

The R.M.S. Liguria arrived at 11.20 to-night. The mails for the Eastern colonies will go on by the boat which leaves on Saturday morning.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PERTH, FRIDAY.

A proposal has been made by the representative of a syndicate of capitalists to the Central Extended Frasers and Frasers South, being the leading mining companies on the central line of reef, to amalgamate their properties. His principal proposal is to limit a liability company in London, with a capital of not less than half a million, to purchase and thoroughly develop the properties of these companies. It is stated that Frasers South Company in Adelaide have signified their approval of the scheme.

Sin and 80 points fell in 14 hours. At Gould's Country, Sin. 14 points in 19 hours. The rate is generally acceptable to farmers.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND, FRIDAY.

The New South Wales cricket team defeated Oamaru yesterday in one innings. They commenced a match against Dunedin to-day. The local men in their first innings only scored 36.

The population at the close of last year is estimated at 622,079, exclusive of Maoris, being an increase during the year of 12,900.

DUNEDIN, FRIDAY.

A second-class award has been given at the Exhibition to the trustees of the Australian Museum at Sydney.

The Swimming Commission to-day the president of the Yards and Harbours Council stated that they had, due to the introduction of improved machinery, is driving skilled adult labour out of the colony.

THE GOULBURN CATHEDRAL DISPUTE.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

GOULBURN, FRIDAY.

In their reply to the counter protest of the cathedral church, the parishioners of the cathedral committee stated that the council have not accepted their proposals. They state that the counter proposals are not based upon the facts and principles which must necessarily guide both parties in any conciliatory measures, which are these:—There has been in Goulburn for nearly 60 years a parochial church of St. Saviour, in which certain properties are annexed by Crown grants, under certain specific trusts, and in which the people and incumbrance have certain rights clearly defined by the Church Act, and that changes in the property should be made to the parochial church and the cathedral church in the diocese, it is desired to alter its constitution. If it be decided to incorporate, unconnected with the parochial church, to the extent of the adjoining schools, then clearly the new building ought to have been erected or otherwise altered so that the people in the other half of the town could be accommodated.

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TEST CASE AGAINST PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

NEWCASTLE, FRIDAY.

At a meeting of shareholders in a late novitiate evening paper last night it was resolved to bring a test case against the provisional directors of the company and to sue for the amount of calls paid on the ground.

Another shareholder, Mr. J. H. Carpenter, who was in the course of the meeting, was of the opinion that the directors should be sued, and that the action should be taken in the name of the shareholders. The chairman stated he had taken counsel's opinion, which was in favour of recovering the amount of the paid-up calls. The case of Mr. H. R. Neary has been selected and will come on at the next District Court in Newcastle.

BANQUET TO MR. CARETHURS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

WINGHAM, FRIDAY.

After addressing a large audience at the Oddfellows' Hall last night, the Hon. J. H. Carethurs, Minister for Public Instruction, was entertained at a banquet by about 50 of the leading residents of Wingham and the surrounding districts. Mr. J. H. Carpenter, Mr. J. H. Martin, and Mr. W. H. Lowe, M.L.A., were also invited.

Mr. H. Lowther, Mayor, presided, and proposed the Ministry of New South Wales. Mr. Carethurs responded. Several other toasts were drunk, including "Prosperity to the Minister of Education," and the proceedings terminated at 2 a.m.

VISIT OF HENRY GEORGE TO ORANGE.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

ORANGE, FRIDAY.

At a public meeting to-night, the Mayor in the chair, on the motion of the Rev. T. Niblett, seconded by Mr. C. Smith, it was decided to present Mr. Henry George with an address of welcome on his visit to Orange.

A committee was appointed to collect subscriptions to entertain him in a suitable manner.

SUPPLY FOR COOTAMUNDRA.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

COOTAMUNDRA, FRIDAY.

The retiring Mayor, Alderman Byrne, is highly complimented for his services. Just before the close of his term, at his request, the Minister for Mines sent an officer to examine and report on a temporary water scheme. The result is a large supply of good spring water. The water has already opened up the lands of the borough. The water was supplied by Mr. R. J. H. Cook, who has been engaged in the business for 20 years, deep, and the engine, pumping 60,000 gallons per day, cannot pump the water out.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Cookman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. George for his services as secretary of the Conference.

Mr. A. J. L. Cookson seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Conference at 12.45 adjourned sine die.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE OF A GIRL.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MOREE, FRIDAY.

Constable Fleming, of Kyneton, arrived at Moree yesterday with news of the death of Annie Turbott, 18, daughter of Mr. W. F. Turbott, who had been staying with a friend in a room of the home-stead, when she fell out to her sister, who went to her assistance and found her the floor; she then took a number of pins, and died in great agony. The coroner inquest was held at Gundowring at the time of the death. Styrching is kept at the home-stead for the coroner's inquest, and in connection with the report of Major-General Edwards, the view taken by Sir Henry F. P. B. was that the girl took her own life with a dose of laudanum. The coroner's inquest was adjourned to the 1st of March.

The question of including Robert as a witness in the trial was referred to the coroner.

The coroner's inquest was adjourned to the 1st of March.

RAILWAY FROM MURARRI TO MOREE.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MOREE, FRIDAY.

Yesterday the gratifying intelligence was received by wire from Mr. T. H. Bassett, M.L.A., stating that he had received a letter from the Works Department, indicating that the proposed line from Narrabri to Moree would be submitted to the Cabinet before February next.

TASMANIA.

HOBART, FRIDAY.

The rain began to fall last night, and continued till the afternoon, raining heavily in the morning. The rains were postponed in consequence. In the North the rainfall has been much heavier.

In the Fingal and Mid and districts, and in St. Mary's, the river rose rapidly, and in the last place did considerable damage. The latest report is that the river is still rising. More rain fell this afternoon, and at St. Mary's 70 points were recorded during the 24 hours. At Falmouth,

FEDERATION CONFERENCE.

THE FINAL SITTING.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTERS.]

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY.

The delegates to the Federal Conference held their death and final sitting this morning. They met at the usual hour and sat, a preparation for the formalities which remained to be recognised, to be welcomed into the public view.

At 12.45 the doors were opened to the public, and the exhibition of the Australian Museum at Sydney.

At the Swimming Commission to-day the president of the Yards and Harbours Council stated that they had, due to the introduction of improved machinery, is driving skilled adult labour out of the colony.

SIR JOHN HALL rose and moved the adoption of an address to her Majesty, assuring her of the devoted loyalty of her subjects in Australia, represented by the Australian Government, and conveying to her the result of their deliberations.

He thought they might take it as a happy augury for the success of their great undertaking that the Conference had been held at a time when it afforded an opportunity for the members to meet and exchange views.

Major-General Edwards, in his speech, said that the Conference had been a success, and that the result of their deliberations was to be a great benefit to the Australian colonies.

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Mr. Gillies moved the adoption of an address to her Majesty, assuring her of the devoted loyalty of her subjects in Australia, represented by the Australian Government, and conveying to her the result of their deliberations.

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